

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ISO-00 /089 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3350

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 4796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: DUTCH WISH TO SET DEADLINE FOR
ALLIED AGREEMENT

REF: USNATO 4538 DTG 271740Z AUG 75

1. NETHERLANDS DELEGATION OFFICER (MEESMAN) HAS INFORMED US
THAT DUTCH DELEGATION IS NOW UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE HAGUE
TO PROPOSE A FIRM DEADLINE FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT ON OPTION III
TO ENABLE AHG TO MAKE PROPOSAL AT OUTSET OF NEW NEGOTIATING
ROUND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22. DUTCH AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO MAKE
THIS PROPOSAL AT PERMREPS LUNCH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, AND
DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS, MAY BRING IT UP ALSO AT NAC ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. MEESMAN SAID HE HAD ALREADY
INFORMED UK DELEGATION, WHICH DID QUICK CHECK WITH LONDON, AND
REPORTED BACK TO MEESMAN THAT UK WILL OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL FOR
A FIRM DEADLINE. GIVEN UK VIEW, DUTCH AMBASSADOR MAY PROPOSE
DEADLINE IN LOW KEY WAY. WE TOLD MEESMAN WE WOULD REPORT
THE DUTCH PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON. WE ALSO SAID ON PERSONAL
SECRET

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BASIS THAT ALTHOUGH ALLIES SHOULD MAKE BEST EFFORTS FOR
EARLY GUIDANCE TO AHG, IT MIGHT BE TOO SOON TO SET STRICT
DEADLINES.

2. COMMENT: AS WE NOTED IN REFTTEL, AN EARLY DEADLINE DOES NOT APPEAR REALISTIC. US REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES CONTINUES. UK IS NOW IN THE MIDST OF A REVIEW OF ITS OWN POSITION ON THE COMMON CEILING. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET YET FOR TRILATERAL WHICH MIGHT FACILITATE FINAL US-UK-FRG CONSENSUS. IN ADDITION, AN EARLY DEADLINE, WHICH WOULD NOT BE MET, WOULD UNDERMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF LATER SETTING A REALISTIC DATE WHICH WOULD HELP SPUR ALLIES TO FINAL AGREEMENT. FINALLY, FOR THE US TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH CLEARLY UNREALISTIC DUTCH TARGET DATE WOULD CREATE IMPRESSION AMONG ALLIES OF UNDUE US HASTE, WHICH MAY LEAD OTHER ALLIES TO DIG IN ON LANGUAGE IN THE GUIDANCE WHICH THE US OPPOSES.

3. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT AR PERMREPS LUNCH, THE US RESPOND TO DUTCH PROPOSAL BY EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR BEST EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON OPTION III IN TIME FOR USE EARLY IN THE NEGOTIATING ROUND, BUT STATING THAT IN US VIEW ALLIES SHOULD NOT TRY TO SET FIRM DEADLINES AT THIS TIME.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR PERMREPS LUNCH, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.
BRUCE.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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